

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHINESE CUSTOMS STAFF.

sign in its madness, or some General or adventurer may succeed in making himself Dictator and imposing his will upon France. Although, under present conditions, the French would enter into an alliance with any Power at all, even C. rman, if Russia demanded it of them, still an alliance with England would, we are convinced, be by no means enthusiastically received by the bulk of the population. But above all, France is, next to ourselves, the greatest naval Power in the world and there will be no security for England until it is either destroyed, or so weakened as to cease to be a menace to us. For these reasons we do not consider that our joining the Dual Alliance would be a safeguard of our interests.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before His Lordship the Chief Justice Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G.)

Friday, April 15th.

HARDON V. BELLILLO.

In this suit, E. A. Hardon, assistant in the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sear & Co. was the plaintiff, and the Hon. E. R. Bellillo the defendant. The plaintiff claimed from defendant an indemnity in respect of certain calls in the late China, Japan, and Straits Settlements Banking Company, Limited which on the date of the liquidation of that Company were registered in the name of the plaintiff and on the same date were held and owned by defendant.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Branton) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Branton was recalled in the box to-day and was sworn by Mr. Robinson at length through the transactions of his bank as regards the letters of credit to defendant. Witness produced the books of the bank and from the letter books he showed what was done in the matter of the reduction of the loan of £100,000 to £75,000 on January 2nd. He produced the general ledger and the book containing the letters of credit issued.

There was an entry in his books showing on December 27, 1897, that the balance of interest on the closing of the account was \$680.30. On the 2nd of November there was a surplus credit to Mr. Bellillo at the bank of \$68,845.43. It was not a payment to defendant but a loan to him. Apparently various shares had been sold and dividends received showing a surplus. All shares in the custody of the bank appeared in the register. On February 1898 1600 shares in witness's own company were withdrawn, also some Brown's, Founders and Ice companies. On February 3, 1898, 3200 shares held as collateral security against the letter of credit for \$10,000 were withdrawn, held as collateral security on the same credit. Four Hongkong Bank shares were also taken on the same date.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—Witness said the book did not show what amounts were paid by the bank in pursuance of the letter of credit for \$75,000. The first amount credited to Mr. Bellillo was on August 29th, 1897. It was \$9,907.20 on 1410 shares. There were no more dividends. But on August 31st there was an entry of \$2,190 on 1048 bank shares which was reversed. These calls were made a separate interest account for the syndicate but witness did not know of it. The Brown and Ice shares appeared under the heading "Collateral Security, Bellillo & Co."

Mr. Robinson re-examined witness as to the reversal of the entry of August 31st, and was told that there was nothing to show why that reversal was made.

Mr. Alexander Coutts, Acting Chief Accountant of the H. K. Bank, produced a letter signed by Bellillo & Co. to the H. K. Bank dated 3rd February. The letter stated that various shares and transfers were sent for the following shares which were to be kept in the "C" account: 4 H. K. Bank, 3200; 50 H. G. Brown, 800 Bank of China Ordinary, 500 New Issue and 10 Founders. The shares were taken by the Bank as security against overdraft in the "C" account. The account was closed in October the same year and these shares were returned to Bellillo & Co.

Mr. M. H. Mitchell, said that he was at present in the firm of Mr. J. R. Bellillo & Co. as book-keeper. He left that employ in April, 1894. While he was in the employ of the firm of Bellillo & Co. shares were put in his name. This was of frequent occurrence. At the time he left Bellillo & Co. there were 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, and they were not his property. Asked by Counsel under what circumstances the shares were put in his name, witness said that he was asked by Mr. Bellillo to put them in his name. At the time he left the firm he received a letter from Bellillo & Co. (produced) dated 23rd April, 1894, stating that in consideration of his allowing the 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, but owned by the firm, and upon which shares the sum of £2 per share had been paid for them to remain in witness's name, the firm would pay all calls that might be made on the shares. Witness said that he had no interest in these shares. He thought that the shares were transferred either last year or the year before last to Mr. Mitchell. At the time of the liquidation of the firm he was standing in witness's name. During 1894, after the 23rd April of that year, there was one call due, which Bellillo & Co. paid. He remembered that 3,000 odd shares were opened under "syndicate account." He remembered some of the members of the syndicate, G. Conon, his brother, Dick, and Melby. He remembered a further account in the books under "syndicate marginal account," and mostly Bank of China shares were held as security in this account. The marginal account was closed by witness. The marginal securities were taken over by Bellillo & Co. at the market rate on that day, and balance was placed in the credit of each individual member of the syndicate in proportion to the number of bank shares he had held in the syndicate. He did not remember any further account opened with reference to the marginal securities as a whole while he was in the firm. The general ledger of the firm for the year 1894 was then produced and witness read entries from it. If any of the 1,600 Bank of China shares had been sold he would expect to find them entered in the ledger account. Referring to the old share register he found shares in the Bank of China registered in the name of Hardon. He also found from another entry that these shares were deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the date being February, 1893. In the new share register he found a balance of 1890 shares including those of Hardon in the Bank of China. There was nothing in the book to show that they had been deposited elsewhere. He signed the promissory note produced as a witness to the signature of G. L. Conon to the note promising to pay Mr. Bellillo \$27,000.37, for value received.

The examination is chief of this witness was then finished and the case was adjourned till Wednesday next, on account of the weather.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHINESE CUSTOMS STAFF.

sign in its madness, or some General or adventurer may succeed in making himself Dictator and imposing his will upon France. Although, under present conditions, the French would enter into an alliance with any Power at all, even C. rman, if Russia demanded it of them, still an alliance with England would, we are convinced, be by no means enthusiastically received by the bulk of the population. But above all, France is, next to ourselves, the greatest naval Power in the world and there will be no security for England until it is either destroyed, or so weakened as to cease to be a menace to us. For these reasons we do not consider that our joining the Dual Alliance would be a safeguard of our interests.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before His Lordship the Chief Justice Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G.)

Friday, April 15th.

HARDON V. BELLILLO.

In this suit, E. A. Hardon, assistant in the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sear & Co. was the plaintiff, and the Hon. E. R. Bellillo the defendant. The plaintiff claimed from defendant an indemnity in respect of certain calls in the late China, Japan, and Straits Settlements Banking Company, Limited which on the date of the liquidation of that Company were registered in the name of the plaintiff and on the same date were held and owned by defendant.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Branton) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Branton was recalled in the box to-day and was sworn by Mr. Robinson at length through the transactions of his bank as regards the letters of credit to defendant. Witness produced the books of the bank and from the letter books he showed what was done in the matter of the reduction of the loan of £100,000 to £75,000 on January 2nd. He produced the general ledger and the book containing the letters of credit issued.

There was an entry in his books showing on December 27, 1897, that the balance of interest on the closing of the account was \$680.30. On the 2nd of November there was a surplus credit to Mr. Bellillo at the bank of \$68,845.43. It was not a payment to defendant but a loan to him. Apparently various shares had been sold and dividends received showing a surplus. All shares in the custody of the bank appeared in the register. On February 1898 1600 shares in witness's own company were withdrawn, also some Brown's, Founders and Ice companies. On February 3, 1898, 3200 shares held as collateral security against the letter of credit for \$10,000 were withdrawn, held as collateral security on the same credit. Four Hongkong Bank shares were also taken on the same date.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—Witness said the book did not show what amounts were paid by the bank in pursuance of the letter of credit for \$75,000. The first amount credited to Mr. Bellillo was on August 29th, 1897. It was \$9,907.20 on 1410 shares. There were no more dividends. But on August 31st there was an entry of \$2,190 on 1048 bank shares which was reversed. These calls were made a separate interest account for the syndicate but witness did not know of it. The Brown and Ice shares appeared under the heading "Collateral Security, Bellillo & Co."

Mr. Robinson re-examined witness as to the reversal of the entry of August 31st, and was told that there was nothing to show why that reversal was made.

Mr. Alexander Coutts, Acting Chief Accountant of the H. K. Bank, produced a letter signed by Bellillo & Co. to the H. K. Bank dated 3rd February. The letter stated that various shares and transfers were sent for the following shares which were to be kept in the "C" account: 4 H. K. Bank, 3200; 50 H. G. Brown, 800 Bank of China Ordinary, 500 New Issue and 10 Founders. The shares were taken by the Bank as security against overdraft in the "C" account. The account was closed in October the same year and these shares were returned to Bellillo & Co.

Mr. M. H. Mitchell, said that he was at present in the firm of Mr. J. R. Bellillo & Co. as book-keeper. He left that employ in April, 1894. While he was in the employ of the firm of Bellillo & Co. shares were put in his name. This was of frequent occurrence. At the time he left Bellillo & Co. there were 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, and they were not his property. Asked by Counsel under what circumstances the shares were put in his name, witness said that he was asked by Mr. Bellillo to put them in his name. At the time he left the firm he received a letter from Bellillo & Co. (produced) dated 23rd April, 1894, stating that in consideration of his allowing the 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, but owned by the firm, and upon which shares the sum of £2 per share had been paid for them to remain in witness's name, the firm would pay all calls that might be made on the shares. Witness said that he had no interest in these shares. He thought that the shares were transferred either last year or the year before last to Mr. Mitchell. At the time of the liquidation of the firm he was standing in witness's name. During 1894, after the 23rd April of that year, there was one call due, which Bellillo & Co. paid. He remembered that 3,000 odd shares were opened under "syndicate account." He remembered some of the members of the syndicate, G. Conon, his brother, Dick, and Melby. He remembered a further account in the books under "syndicate marginal account," and mostly Bank of China shares were held as security in this account. The marginal account was closed by witness. The marginal securities were taken over by Bellillo & Co. at the market rate on that day, and balance was placed in the credit of each individual member of the syndicate in proportion to the number of bank shares he had held in the syndicate. He did not remember any further account opened with reference to the marginal securities as a whole while he was in the firm. The general ledger of the firm for the year 1894 was then produced and witness read entries from it. If any of the 1,600 Bank of China shares had been sold he would expect to find them entered in the ledger account. Referring to the old share register he found shares in the Bank of China registered in the name of Hardon. He also found from another entry that these shares were deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the date being February, 1893. In the new share register he found a balance of 1890 shares including those of Hardon in the Bank of China. There was nothing in the book to show that they had been deposited elsewhere. He signed the promissory note produced as a witness to the signature of G. L. Conon to the note promising to pay Mr. Bellillo \$27,000.37, for value received.

The examination is chief of this witness was then finished and the case was adjourned till Wednesday next, on account of the weather.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHINESE CUSTOMS STAFF.

sign in its madness, or some General or adventurer may succeed in making himself Dictator and imposing his will upon France. Although, under present conditions, the French would enter into an alliance with any Power at all, even C. rman, if Russia demanded it of them, still an alliance with England would, we are convinced, be by no means enthusiastically received by the bulk of the population. But above all, France is, next to ourselves, the greatest naval Power in the world and there will be no security for England until it is either destroyed, or so weakened as to cease to be a menace to us. For these reasons we do not consider that our joining the Dual Alliance would be a safeguard of our interests.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before His Lordship the Chief Justice Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G.)

Friday, April 15th.

HARDON V. BELLILLO.

In this suit, E. A. Hardon, assistant in the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sear & Co. was the plaintiff, and the Hon. E. R. Bellillo the defendant. The plaintiff claimed from defendant an indemnity in respect of certain calls in the late China, Japan, and Straits Settlements Banking Company, Limited which on the date of the liquidation of that Company were registered in the name of the plaintiff and on the same date were held and owned by defendant.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Branton) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Branton was recalled in the box to-day and was sworn by Mr. Robinson at length through the transactions of his bank as regards the letters of credit to defendant. Witness produced the books of the bank and from the letter books he showed what was done in the matter of the reduction of the loan of £100,000 to £75,000 on January 2nd. He produced the general ledger and the book containing the letters of credit issued.

There was an entry in his books showing on December 27, 1897, that the balance of interest on the closing of the account was \$680.30. On the 2nd of November there was a surplus credit to Mr. Bellillo at the bank of \$68,845.43. It was not a payment to defendant but a loan to him. Apparently various shares had been sold and dividends received showing a surplus. All shares in the custody of the bank appeared in the register. On February 1898 1600 shares in witness's own company were withdrawn, also some Brown's, Founders and Ice companies. On February 3, 1898, 3200 shares held as collateral security against the letter of credit for \$10,000 were withdrawn, held as collateral security on the same credit. Four Hongkong Bank shares were also taken on the same date.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—Witness said the book did not show what amounts were paid by the bank in pursuance of the letter of credit for \$75,000. The first amount credited to Mr. Bellillo was on August 29th, 1897. It was \$9,907.20 on 1410 shares. There were no more dividends. But on August 31st there was an entry of \$2,190 on 1048 bank shares which was reversed. These calls were made a separate interest account for the syndicate but witness did not know of it. The Brown and Ice shares appeared under the heading "Collateral Security, Bellillo & Co."

Mr. Robinson re-examined witness as to the reversal of the entry of August 31st, and was told that there was nothing to show why that reversal was made.

Mr. Alexander Coutts, Acting Chief Accountant of the H. K. Bank, produced a letter signed by Bellillo & Co. to the H. K. Bank dated 3rd February. The letter stated that various shares and transfers were sent for the following shares which were to be kept in the "C" account: 4 H. K. Bank, 3200; 50 H. G. Brown, 800 Bank of China Ordinary, 500 New Issue and 10 Founders. The shares were taken by the Bank as security against overdraft in the "C" account. The account was closed in October the same year and these shares were returned to Bellillo & Co.

Mr. M. H. Mitchell, said that he was at present in the firm of Mr. J. R. Bellillo & Co. as book-keeper. He left that employ in April, 1894. While he was in the employ of the firm of Bellillo & Co. shares were put in his name. This was of frequent occurrence. At the time he left Bellillo & Co. there were 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, and they were not his property. Asked by Counsel under what circumstances the shares were put in his name, witness said that he was asked by Mr. Bellillo to put them in his name. At the time he left the firm he received a letter from Bellillo & Co. (produced) dated 23rd April, 1894, stating that in consideration of his allowing the 300 Bank of China shares standing in his name, but owned by the firm, and upon which shares the sum of £2 per share had been paid for them to remain in witness's name, the firm would pay all calls that might be made on the shares. Witness said that he had no interest in these shares. He thought that the shares were transferred either last year or the year before last to Mr. Mitchell. At the time of the liquidation of the firm he was standing in witness's name. During 1894, after the 23rd April of that year, there was one call due, which Bellillo & Co. paid. He remembered that 3,000 odd shares were opened under "syndicate account." He remembered some of the members of the syndicate, G. Conon, his brother, Dick, and Melby. He remembered a further account in the books under "syndicate marginal account," and mostly Bank of China shares were held as security in this account. The marginal account was closed by witness. The marginal securities were taken over by Bellillo & Co. at the market rate on that day, and balance was placed in the credit of each individual member of the syndicate in proportion to the number of bank shares he had held in the syndicate. He did not remember any further account opened with reference to the marginal securities as a whole while he was in the firm. The general ledger of the firm for the year 1894 was then produced and witness read entries from it. If any of the 1,600 Bank of China shares had been sold he would expect to find them entered in the ledger account. Referring to the old share register he found shares in the Bank of China registered in the name of Hardon. He also found from another entry that these shares were deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the date being February, 1893. In the new share register he found a balance of 1890 shares including those of Hardon in the Bank of China. There was nothing in the book to show that they had been deposited elsewhere. He signed the promissory note produced as a witness to the signature of G. L. Conon to the note promising to pay Mr. Bellillo \$27,000.37, for value received.

The examination is chief of this witness was then finished and the case was adjourned till Wednesday next, on account of the weather.

Customs. They are to be found in almost all Customs Libraries which are usually open to the public as in most of the Treaty Ports. A glance shows us that Messrs. So-and-so, &c., &c., Commissioners, were appointed to be Commissioners, after 1845, respectively 2, 3, 4 or 5 years of service. The bonus which they received for their first septennial period of service was consequently £1,600 or £2,000 sterling according to their pay as Commissioners, whereas Messrs So-and-so and So-and-so, (whose names they had stepped over for political or other motives owing to the peculiarly cosmopolitan composition of the personnel of the Customs) were, at the completion of their first septennial period, still in the lower ranks of the Assistant and entitled to receive say 5, 6, or £700 only, according as they had been moderately lucky or otherwise in the matter of promotion, and even the second and third bonuses issued to these Assistants would fall far short of the sum received by a man who was fortunate enough to be created a Commissioner within his first seven years' service.

It is only too obvious how very inadequate and unsatisfactory is the system of granting bonuses in lieu of pension at present enforced in the Imperial Chinese Customs, and it is a matter in which the Foreign Ministers at Peking might fittingly interest themselves to improve the prospects of their nationals in the Service and of the BONDHOLDERS.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1898.
P.S.—In connexion with the above I would draw your attention to the Hongkong Telegraph of 24th November last, where we find the "Carriage Report" of the Committee of the Slang-pye Chamber of Commerce to quote into the advisability of the adoption of a Gold Standard. It was part of a "lecture" given by the Committee of remonstrance was recognized by Government in 1894, since when their officials have received exchange compensation: the municipality have also granted compensation since that year to some of their staff; and all the Banks and some mercantile firms and Dock Companies have followed suit. In September last, officers and engineers of many local steamers secured by "strike" a considerable advance in wages; an increase in lawyers' fees has been approved by Government; and the feodalism generally, as well as their charges. But for the great majority of employees no compensation, in any shape or form, seems warranted by the present position of business affairs in this colony, and finally of exchange, on some distinctly higher basis than the present has become, with them, an urgent necessity."

"The Bitter Cry."
Also N. C. Daily News of 26th—Sir Robert's reply.
Vide also The Hongkong Telegraph, 5th March, 1898.

THE PHILIPPINE MINING CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
DEAR SIR—In your issue of 31st March you comment on the proposed prospectus of the Philippine Mining and Development Company, Limited, without evidently having given the matter full consideration.

The business immediately in hand is coal mining for which there is rarely or never been a more opportune time for developing it, and whatever may be said of the "prospectus" of the "Spanish" sale in the past 50 years, since Magellan landed in China Islands, there is no stoppage to progress in mining enterprises now, and it is well-known to the owners of the extensive iron ore mines in the north of Spain and to the proprietors of the Rio Tinto and Tarsus copper mines that the mining laws of Spain are the most liberal of any country in Europe.

In the Philippines the Government is liberal to a fault in settling prospecting claims, the recent placing of the cable all over the principal islands by the Eastern Telegraph Company—worked by the Company, which gets a handsome subsidy besides a large proportion of the revenue accruing.

It cannot have escaped your notice in reading the prospectus, that mining can be prosecuted here by any and every nationality, and as exclusively as any other trade or business, and the so-called "revolution" caused it is said by a bad feeling against the clergy, is of very small account and has no effect whatever on the mining industry.

As apart from the fact that promotions go much more slowly now-a-days than was the case 15 or 20 years ago, the Customs employees receive less than one half the pay which they were promised and led to expect when they joined the Service, which assertion is clearly proven by the fact that the fortunate employees attached to the London office, are paid in gold, not the equivalent of the same rank in China.

Let us hope that for the sake of European and American prestige in the East, their representatives at Peking will receive the instructions of their Governments to support Sir Robert to the fullest extent in demanding a speedy re-adjustment of the salaries of the foreign employees upon the basis of the exchange ruling at the time their engagements were entered into. His own desires are set forth in the columns of the N. C. Daily News of 25th Feb. last and he has presented a petition from the whole staff to the Tang-shi Yung-shi with his earnest recommendation, but beyond this it is difficult to see what he can do, without the serious and energetic backing of the Corps Diplomatique. Surely, at the present moment, when China seems to be so completely at their mercy, they might throw in their weight on behalf of their countrymen in the Customs Service. There is no better time to strike than when the iron is hot. Indeed, it seems now to be within the scope of the Powers concerned, to try and arrange some more just and satisfactory system of pensions or bonuses to the employees in view of the slow rate of promotion, and the impossibility for those in receipt of small salaries to make adequate provision for their old age out of the trifling sums they receive from time to time on account of bonus. Not a few of the Commissioners upon the Service List, have always received large bonuses, having been made Commissioners from political and other motives, after but two or three years of service, whereas the majority of the employees have to serve over twenty years before they can obtain similarly large bonuses. Length of service should surely be the guiding principle in deciding the amount of bonuses in lieu of pensions.

We will avoid all personalities, and simply look through an old Service List of the 18th Century of which, I am outside Wei-hai-wai and

for Tientsin, on the opposite shore of Shanghai. But I do not know whether this is true, and I think it may prove that the islands and Tientsin will be made a Chinese naval station—controlled by England in capacity of Naval instructor, you know—which will be a matter of fact figure out very much the same as if we had it ourselves. Whether the possession of Wei-hai-wai is the extent of our demonstration I do not know, but rumours are not lacking that all danger of war is not yet averted. We have not heard yet what Russia will say to England's seat on Wei-hai-wai. It so completely spelt her book that she may cut no rough about it, or she may hold her peace and she is quite in a position to talk, which she certainly does not seem to be just now. That she will eventually resent England's *vis a vis* position goes without saying. I hear the Admiral is working under quite independent orders direct from home. He has been most indefatigable in his deck clearing and searchlight practices of late, and last week the crews of the eighteen men-of-war in Chefoo were kept going night and day.

An Anglo-Italian Syndicate is said to be obtaining large and important concessions in the province of Shanai for the working of mines and laying of railways. Who the Anglo parties are I do not know, but the Italian factor is represented by a Count Catalani who is very busy around here.

The following "very special all-our-own" Reuter's will serve to show how we amused ourselves here on the 1st. The little "news" was posted in the Club and it was funny to note the various effects produced.

"Tientsin, 1 April, 1898.

LONDON, 31st March.

"The Rt. Hon. Mr. Curzon has declared that there is no truth in the report that H.M.S. *Batler* had purchased three pickles of Chinese crackers with which to make a demonstration in the Gulf of Pechili.

"Lord Salisbury is declared by his physician to be suffering from 'rump' but Abel has promised to play for Surrey."

Several of our most distinguished residents acquitted themselves most originally. One, he was a Consul, after negotiating the placard in severe silence for a moment, only betrayed the agitation of his feelings by absently picking his eye-glass in the wrong eye; another, a general, saw the joke, after due deliberation, and went off speculatively every five minutes by the clock; while a third—walked straight out of the Club.

By the bye a very good story is going the rounds now. Several leading Russians have delivered themselves in all seriousness of the opinion that the British fleet has come north solely for the purpose of saluting the Russian flag at Port Arthur! And yet people may be flattered by not polite! Well, we couldn't do more than that if we were Frenchmen.

In reference to this new Treaty port about which I wrote you a few days ago, it is a little place called Chwangang, or Tampo, and is at or very near the place from which the mails were despatched to Chefoo this winter. It is close to the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company's Works, and where they ship most of their coal from, and I fancy we have obtained its opening as a Treaty port mainly to prevent Russia securing it as another coaling station. It may eventually be a very useful outlet for trade, as it is never frozen in. More in a few days.

NOTANDA.

CALENDAR.

Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1897.

Barometer at sea level 29.958
Thermometer at 6 ft. 60.7
Humidity 85.6
Rainfall 7.58

TO-DAY.

Barometer 30.07 29.98
Thermometer 74 76
Humidity 71 74
Rainfall

TO-DAY.

Friday, 15th April, 1898.
Chinese—25th of 8rd moon of 34th year of Kwong-shi.
Jewish—28th Nisan, 5658.
Mohammedan—23rd Dulhadda, 1215.
Sun—Rise 5.45m. Set 6.45m.
High water—Morning 6.45m. Afternoon 1.15m.
Low water—Morning 1.15m. Afternoon 6.45m.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1512—St. Francis Xavier left Goa for China.
1888—Tanchang, the coal-mining works at Tai-yu-shan first opened.
1895—Peace arranged between Japan and China.

TO-MORROW.

Saturday, 16th April, 1898.
Chinese—26th of 8rd moon of 34th year of Kwong-shi.
Jewish—29th Nisan, 5658.
Mohammedan—24th Dulhadda, 1215.
Sun—Rise 5.45m. Set 6.45m.
High water—Morning 6.45m. Afternoon 1.15m.
Low water—Morning 1.15m. Afternoon 6.45m.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1746—Battle of Culloden.
1843—The Viceroy Kung-ying wrote to Sir H. Pottinger admitting that the two countries were now united in friendship.
1873—Sir Arthur Kennedy arrived in Hongkong.
1875—Cape D'Aguilar light first exhibited.
1884—The s.s. *Hochberg* sank by H.M.S. *Lapwing* near Octopus.
1888—The town of San Fernando, Luzon, almost totally destroyed by fire.
1897—Departure of Dr. Blal.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE:
English (Coromandel) to-morrow.
Canadian (Empress of India) 15th inst.
American (China) 20th inst.
Australian (China) 20th inst.
Indian (Zetland) 20th inst.
Australian (East Malay) 22nd inst.
American (Belge) 20th inst.

THE N. P. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Argyll* from Portland, has arrived at Yokohama, and sails for Kobe and Hongkong to-day, the 15th inst.
THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Sanuki Maru* from Kobe, has arrived at Singapore this morning, the 14th, and is expected to arrive here on the 20th inst.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamer *Empress of India*, arrived at Nagasaki at 5 a.m. to-day, the 15th, and will leave at 3 p.m. for Shanghai, where she is due to arrive at 9 p.m. to-morrow, the 16th inst.

SHIPPING RETURNS.

From 5 p.m. yesterday to 5 p.m. to-day.

ARRIVALS.

Chusan	steamer, from Shanghai
Gila	" " " "
Wuhu	" " " "
Manila	" " " "
Victoria	" " " "
Bangkok	" " " "
Rangoon	" " " "
Bangkok	" " " "
Moji	" " " "
Hongay	" " " "
Bombay	" " " "
Moji	" " " "

Aggregating 15,345 tons register.

DEPARTURES.

P. C. Kiao	steamer, for Swatow
Zuho	" " " "
Chiswick	" " " "
Halman	" " " "
Kyoto Maru	" " " "
Isan	" " " "
Namshan	" " " "
Choyong	" " " "
Dutchland	" " " "
Humber	" " " "
Kong Beng	" " " "
Swatow	" " " "
Faus	

